

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OPR-02 ORM-03 SR-02 AID-20 SCS-03

SCA-01 INRE-00 RSR-01 /136 W
----- 105000

O 041114 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1957

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION UN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5089

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY, SITREP 8

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

SITREP 8

1. REPORTS FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (HADDAD), ARMY (KANAAN AND G-2)
AND PRESIDENCY (DIB) CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGING AS OF 1000 Z
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MAY 4. CALM REMAINS IN BEIRUT AREA WITH NO RPT NO REPORTED INCIDENTS. HOWEVER THERE ARE REPORTS OF OCCASIONAL FEDAYEEN CHECKPOINTS NEAR REFUGEE CAMPS. WE ARE ASSURED THAT REPORTS (BY BBC AMONG OTHERS) OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN ARKUB ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS BRIEF EXCHANGE OF MORTAR FIRE AT ONE SPOT EARLY IN DAY. NO CONTACT THUS FAR MAY 4 WITH HEAVILY ARMED ELEMENTS WHO CAME FROM SYRIA (AND MAY HAVE RETURNED THERE). SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON REPORTED QUIET EXCEPT FOR HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT ORGANIZE STREET RALLY IN SIDON. NORTH LEBANON ALSO QUIET. OBSERVERS ARE IMPRESSED AND SURPRISED BY EFFECTIVENESS OF CEASE- FIRE TO THIS HOUR. MORALE OF ARMY ALSO REPORTED VERY HIGH.

2. FONMIN HAS INFORMED US THROUGH HADDAD THAT SARG (REPORTEDLY PM AYYUBI TO PM HAFEZ) HAS PROMISED TO WITHDRAW REMAINING PERSONNEL OF YARMUK BRIGADE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS MAY 4. HARD TO SAY WHAT VALUE TO PLACE ON PROMISE BUT IT IS CHANGE FROM MAY 3 POSITION OF DENYING ANY ELEMENTS CROSSED BORDER. ATTITUDE OF EGYPTIAN STILL CONSIDER POSITIVE. MAHMOUD RIAD ARRIVES AFTERNOON MAY 4. SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM KING HASSAN ALSO ARRIVING, ALONG WITH IRAQI ENVOY. FORMER CONSIDERED BE HELPFUL WHILE LATTER CONSIDERED BE LESS SO. IN ANY EVENT GOL (DIB, TONY FRANGIE AND ABOU HAMAD) ENCOURAGED BY PRESENT STATE OF PLAY WITH OTHER ARAB GOVTS.

3. CONCERNING INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, FONMIN (VIA HADDAD) AND DIB SAY THAT ATTITUDE OF PRIME MINISTER HAFEZ MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN EVENING MAY 3 AND THAT HIS RESIGNATION THREAT HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN. VERY ACTIVE POLITICAL BARGAINING EXPECTED FOR REST OF DAY AND PROBABLY FOR SEVERAL DAYS AHEAD. PRESIDENT FRANGIE REPORTEDLY REMAINS QUITE FIRM IN HIS INSISTANCE THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT REACHED WITH FEDAYEEN NOT RPT NOT ACCORD THEM SORT OF FREEDOM THEY HAD UNDER OLD CAIRO ACCORDS.

4. UNRWA OFFICIALS REPORT THEY HAVE HAD NO ACCESS TO ANY REFUGEE CAMPS HERE SINCE FIGHTING BEGAN MAY 2, AND THAT ACCESS STILL RESTRICTED BOTH BY ARMY AND FEDAYEEN. AGENCY HAS NO PRECISE ESTIMATE OF CASUALTY RATE AMONG RESIDENTS OF CAMPS AROUND BEIRUT, BUT CONSIDERS IT TO BE HIGH. CAMPS ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON DESCRIBED AS QUIET.

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HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT05089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730533/aaaahlhe.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971118
Subject: INTERNAL SECURITY, SITREP 8 ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO SITREP 8
TAGS: PINS, LE
To: AMMAN
ATHENS
DHAHRAN
DIA WASHDC
JERUSALEM
JIDDA
LONDON

NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005